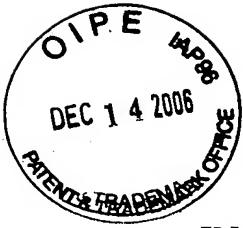


I72



Docket No.: A8130.0024/P024-A
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
R. D. Grafton et al.

Application No.: 10/673,235

Confirmation No.: 1583

Filed: September 30, 2003

Art Unit: 3761

For: BIOABSORBABLE TISSUE TACK WITH
OVAL-SHAPED HEAD AND METHOD OF
TISSUE FIXATION USING THE SAME

Examiner: G. K. Dawson

RULE 312 AMENDMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 312(a), please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 3 of this paper.